(iii) These locomotives will form basis for updating electric locomotives to the State of art technology to meet rapidly growing requirements of traffic and achieving energy conservation, higher operational efficiency, service reliability, reduced maintenance cost and improved customer service.

(iv) Freight locomotive will be capable of hauling 4500 ton loads at service speed of 100 KMPH against 65 KMPH with existing builds. The passenger locomotive will be capable of hauling at service speed of 160 KMPH with feasibility of uprating it to 200 KMPH.

Development of technology in the Railways

1927. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether working groups drawing experts from centres of learning research and industry have been set up in specific fields in the railways to devise ways and means for the development of technology;

(b) if so, by when the experts are likely to submit their recommendations; and

(c) what are the details of the new thrust to railway technical upgradation to boost the railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of the nine technology development groups is of a continuous nature involving identification of projects and their review periodically till their successful completion.

(c) The Technology Development Plan is integrated to realise five Missions relating to improving the speed of passenger and freight trains, running of heavy haul freight trains, upgradation of the Metre Gauge System and developing capacity for absorbing identified futuristic technlogies.

Modernisation of air traffic

1928. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the scheme to modernise air traffic control at Bombay and Delhi airports;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of expenditure involved therein; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Not as yet.

(b) and (c) The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 293·77 crores. After the project is cleared by the Government, the National Airports Authority will take up the work and it is expected to be completed in about 3 years from the date of start of work.

Indian help to airlift the supplies to Kabul

1929. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has offered to assist the Afghan Government in the airlifting of essential supplies to Kabul;

(b) if so, what kind of assistance and help India has agreed to provide to Kabul ;

(c) whether any negotiations have been carried in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (d) In response to an appeal from the Government of Afghanistan, we are sending relief supplies for the people of Afghanistan. As on 3rd May, 1989, supplies worth about Rs. 72 lakhs consisting of vanaspati, tea, sugar and medicines had been sent to Kabul.

D.T.C. bus service

1930. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct bus service from Alaknanda Complex to Nehru Place ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reschedule Route Numbers 444, 445 via Nehru Place and if not, what are the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Government have received a number of representations from public and have seen newspaper reports in this regard; and

(d) is so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir. Route No. 411 is providing direct link between Alaknanda and Nehru Place.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Surveys carried out from time to time revealed that present services have adequately been meeting the transport requirements of the communters.

Reservation for Ex-servicemen in Schools under Delhi Administration and Central Schools

1931. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made recruitment in the different grades of teachers in the schools run by Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Central School Organisation;

(b) if so, what are the details of vacancies earmarked for ex-servicemen and number of applications in the different grades of teachers;

(c) whether the vacancies of teachers reserved for ex-servicemen have been filled up;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(e) if reply to part (c) above be in negative, what are the details of unfilled vacancies and in what manner Government propose to fill up the remaining vacancies; and

(f) whether Government propose to relax educational norms to fill up the posts of teaches in these schools and hold direct rnterviews for unfilled posts reserveid for ex-servicemen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CUTLURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) Delhi